



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/636,547	08/11/2000	Richard Koenig	110273.00102	8847

27557 7590 11/07/2002

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY, LLP
900 17TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

HWANG, JOON H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/636,547

Applicant(s)

KOENIG, RICHARD

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-61 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-61 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicant added new claims 52-61 in the amendment received on 8/26/02.
The pending claims are 42-61.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 42-52, 54, 56, 58, 60, and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riordan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,891) in view of Kouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,511).

With respect to claim 42, Riordan discloses a computer-readable storage medium and a data structure stored in the medium (fig. 6). Riordan discloses a first data table storing identifying information about an entity (fig. 6 and lines 9-14 in col. 10). Riordan discloses a second data table storing an identification of category to which the entity belongs (fig. 6, lines 34-53 in col. 8). Riordan discloses storing descriptive information about the category (fig. 6, lines 62-67 in col. 8, and lines 1-7 and lines 18-46 in col. 9). Riordan is silent on a separate third data table for storing the descriptive information about the category. However, Kouchi discloses a detail table storing associations of data from unit tables, which store the same data used for the associations (fig. 12, lines 61-67 in col. 14, lines 1-67 in col. 15, and lines 1-65 in col. 16). Kouchi stores data in a detail table separately in unit tables by utilizing relational database techniques (such as linking/binding tables/data with a primary/foreign key, fig.

12 and lines 33-36 in col. 16). Therefore, based on Riordan in view of Kouchi, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to store descriptive information about the category in a separate table for the discretion of a user.

With respect to claim 43, Riordan discloses a relational database (lines 18-24 in col. 7).

With respect to claim 44, Riordan further discloses an identification field element identifying tables and linking tables via the identification field element (fig. 4, fig. 6, and lines 15-47 in col. 5).

With respect to claim 45, Riordan further discloses subcategory within a category (lines 34-53 in col. 8). Therefore, the limitations of claim 45 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 42, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 52, Riordan discloses a name of the category, which teaches the identification of the category and a description field for describing objects (category, lines 34-67 in col. 8, lines 1-7 and lines 18-46 in col. 9, and fig. 6).

With respect to claim 54, Riordan discloses a name of the category/subcategory, which teaches the identification of the category/subcategory and a description field for describing objects (category/subcategory, lines 34-67 in col. 8, lines 1-7 and lines 18-46 in col. 9, and fig. 6).

The limitations of claim 46 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 42, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 47, Riordan discloses a relational database (lines 18-24 in col. 7).

The limitations of claim 48 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 44, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 49 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 45, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 50, Riordan discloses a search mechanism searching the data structure, which may be utilized with a query (category and subcategory), and a response (a search result, lines 37-67 in col. 10, and lines 1-13 in col. 11).

With respect to claim 51, Riordan discloses a search mechanism searching the data structure, which may be utilized with a query (category), and a response (a search result, lines 37-67 in col. 10, and lines 1-13 in col. 11).

The limitations of claim 56 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 52, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 58 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 54, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 60, matching the data structure with the identification of the category teaches searching the data structure with a query (the identification of the category). Therefore, the limitations of claim 60 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 51, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 61, matching the data structure with the identification of the category and the identification of the subcategory teaches searching the data structure

Art Unit: 2172

with a query (the identification of the category and the identification of the subcategory).

Therefore, the limitations of claim 61 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 50, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

4. Claims 53, 55, 57, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riordan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,891) in view of Kouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,802,511), and further in view of Fohn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,076,091).

With respect to claim 53, Riordan and Kouchi are silent on a free-form description for the category. However, Fohn discloses a text description of an object (category), which teaches a free-form description (lines 8-45 in col. 5 and fig. 2). Therefore, based on Riordan in view of Kouchi, and further in view of Fohn, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a free-form description in order to provide more flexible and detailed information for the category.

With respect to claim 55, Riordan and Kouchi are silent on a free-form description for the category/subcategory. However, Fohn discloses a text description of an object (category/subcategory), which teaches a free-form description (lines 8-45 in col. 5 and fig. 2). Therefore, based on Riordan in view of Kouchi, and further in view of Fohn, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a free-form description in order to provide more flexible and detailed information for the category/subcategory.

The limitations of claim 57 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 53, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 59 are rejected in the analysis above of claim 55, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

Response to Arguments

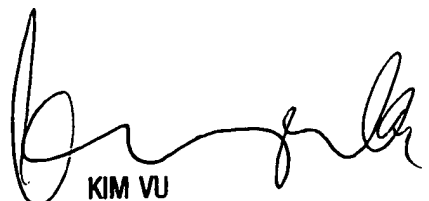
5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 42-61 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 703-305-6469. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Joon Hwang
November 3, 2002


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100